

MediaTitle	The Star (Metro North)		
Date	12 Mar 2015	Language	English
Circulation	32,175	Readership	96,525
Section	News	Color	Full Color
Page No	3	ArticleSize	457 cm ²
AdValue	RM 11,496	PR Value	RM 34,489



Sakura spring is here

Floral enthusiasts all excited over blooming cherry blossoms

By G.C. TAN

north@thestar.com.my

THE beautiful Tecoma trees are in full bloom, creating a picturesque scene at several places in Penang.

The beautiful addition can clearly be seen in Jalan Mayang Pasir 2, Jalan Sungai Ara 11, Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu (near Queensbay Mall) and along Medan Bayan Lepas.

Over on the mainland, you will find the Tecoma trees in white and pink, the shade of cherry blossoms, lining the streets in Jalan Raja Uda and in Jalan Bagan.

The panoramic view of the pink and white flowers is also causing a buzz in Kedah.

Clerk Nora Romli, 26, from Kampung Kepala Bukit, near Gunung Jerai, Gurun, said she travelled some 50km to Alor Setar by motorcycle with her sister on Tuesday just to take pictures of the trees and the beautiful flowers.

"The row of Tecoma trees along Lebuhraya Sultanah Bahiyah is now in full bloom. I can never find such

trees in Gurun or Yan.

"I've been taking pictures of the blossoming trees for years. I feel like I'm in Japan when I'm around the Tecoma trees," she said, adding that she would post the pictures on her Facebook page.

About 300 Tecoma trees were planted around the city by the Alor Setar Municipal Council 15 years ago as part of its beautification programme.

Universiti Utara Malaysia general worker Ramli Aziz, 60, said not many Tecoma trees were blossoming around the campus this time round.

"The flowers will only bloom for several days. They will then fall and carpet the ground which is nice to see.

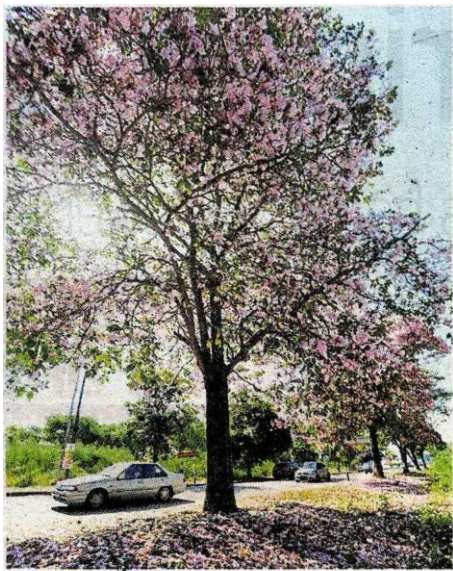
"But it means more work for me as I will have to sweep up the fallen blooms," he said.

Tecoma is a type of forest tree that comes into full blossom during the dry season (normally twice around March and in June or July), and its beauty only lasts for two to three weeks.

Striking a pose: Nora (left) and her third sister Ida, 36, sharing a selfie with the Tecoma flowers at Lebuhraya Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, Kedah.



Headline	Sakura spring is here		
MediaTitle	The Star (Metro North)		
Date	12 Mar 2015	Language	English
Circulation	32,175	Readership	96,525
Section	News	Color	Full Color
Page No	3	ArticleSize	457 cm²
AdValue	RM 11,496	PR Value	RM 34,489



Fascinating: Tecoma trees blossoming by the roadside at Jalan Bagan in Butterworth.



Irresistible: The beautiful Tecoma trees attracting a shutterbug at Medan Bayan Lepas in Penang.